

✓ IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-4, without prejudice toward the further prosecution of these claims in a Continuation and/or Divisional Application.

✓  
Please add the following new Claims:

5. (New) A method for crystallizing N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester, comprising:  
crystallizing N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester from a solution comprising N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester and a solvent, to obtain crystals of N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester which exhibit at least the following diffraction peaks as measured by x-ray diffraction, 2 $\theta$  CuK $\alpha$ :

a peak at 6.0°;

a peak at 24.8°;

a peak at 8.2°; and

a peak at 16.5°,

wherein said solvent is selected from the group consisting of water and mixtures of water and a lower alcohol,

wherein said crystallization is carried out such that the temperature of said solution is maintained above 30 °C until onset of nucleation of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester.

6. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein said solvent is a mixture of water and methanol.

7. (New) The method of Claim 6, wherein said methanol is present in said solvent in an amount of 15 wt.% or less, based on the total weight of said solvent.

8. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein said solvent is water.

9. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein said crystallization is carried out such that the temperature of said solution is maintained at 30 °C to 65 °C until onset of nucleation of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester.

10. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein said crystallization is carried out such that the temperature of said solution is maintained at 40 °C to 50 °C until onset of nucleation of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester.

11. (New) The method of Claim 5, wherein said crystallization is carried out such that the temperature of said solution is maintained above 47 °C until onset of nucleation of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester.

12. (New) A method for crystallizing N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester, comprising:

crystallizing N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester from a solution comprising N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester and a solvent, to obtain crystals of N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester which exhibit at least the following diffraction peaks as measured by x-ray diffraction, 2 $\theta$  CuK $\alpha$ :

a peak at 6.0°;

a peak at 24.8°;

a peak at 8.2°; and

a peak at 16.5°;

wherein said solvent is selected from the group consisting of water and mixtures of water and a lower alcohol,

wherein said crystallization is carried out in the presence of seed crystals of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester, and

wherein said seed crystals of said N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- $\alpha$ -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine methyl ester exhibit at least the following diffraction peaks as measured by x-ray diffraction,  $2\theta$  CuK $\alpha$ :

a peak at  $6.0^\circ$ ;

a peak at  $24.8^\circ$ ;

a peak at  $8.2^\circ$ ; and

a peak at  $16.5^\circ$ .

13. (New) The method of Claim 12, wherein said solvent is a mixture of water and methanol.

14. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein said methanol is present in said solvent in an amount of 15 wt.% or less, based on the total weight of said solvent.

15. (New) The method of Claim 12, wherein said solvent is water.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Applicants have rewritten the claims to obviate the criticisms outlined on pages 2 and 3, of the Official Action. Support for the new claims can be found in canceled Claims 1-4, as originally presented.

No new matter has been added. Claims 5-15 are active in this application.